

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /065 W
-----082121Z 097697 /64

R 081505Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4806
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: LABOR CONVENTION FORMAT AND THE FLOW OF
ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE CANDIDATES

REF: TEL AVIV 904

1. THE DECISION TO HAVE THE CONVENTION PICK THE PARTY'S
CHOICE FOR PRIME MINISTER BECAME MORE FIRM YESTERDAY
FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS AMONG PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING
CANDIDATES RABIN AND PERES, AND THE CONVENTION'S
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT RABIN,BUT
NOT PERES, WILL SPEAK AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THE
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 22 (COMMENT: A MILD SET-BACK FOR PERES).
HOWEVER, BOTH CANDIDATES FOR THE TOP SPOT WILL ADDRESS THE
CONVENTION AT ITS FIRST WORKING SESSION ON FEBRUARY 23,
AFTER WHICH DEBATE WILL BEGIN LEADING TO THE VOTE ON THE
PARTY'S NOMINEE. SUGGESTIONS FOR A TWO-PART CONVENTION
OR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CANDIDATE BE CHOSEN AS THE
CONVENTION'S FINAL ITEM OF BUSINESS (REFTEL) WERE
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REJECTED. (COMMENT: THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS APPEAR TO
BE FINAL BUT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE ONCE THE CONVENTION
GETS UNDERWAY.)

2. MEANWHILE THE SORTING OUT OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND
LEADERS BEHIND ONE CANDIDATE OR THE OTHER CONTINUES. ON
FEBRUARY 5 THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF AHDUT AVODAH'S

KIBBUTZ ORGANIZATION, KIBBUTZ HAMEUHAD, CALLED UPON THE LABOR PARTY TO UNITE BEHIND RABIN. THE ENDORSEMENT, ALTHOUGH EXPECTED, WAS NOTICEABLY LACKING IN ENTHUSIASM. AS REPORTED IN THE JERUSALEM POST, THE COUNCIL SEEMED MORE ANTI-PERES, BECAUSE HE IS A CHALLENGER FROM AHDUT AVODAH'S RIVAL FACTION IN THE PARTY (RAFT), THAN IT WAS PRO-RABIN. THE COUNCIL IS TROUBLED OVER SENTIMENT AMONG AHDUT AVODAH'S YOUNGER RANKS IN FAVOR OF YADIN'S DMC AS A REFLECTION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LABOR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP.

3. YOSHI SARID, LABOR'S YOUNG, DOVISH AND RESPECTED MK, ANNOUNCED IN AN OPEN-LETTER PUBLISHED TODAY HIS SUPPORT OF PERES. CAREFUL NOT TO ATTACK RABIN, SARID WROTE THAT HE IS BACKING THE DEFENSE MINISTER BECAUSE, MORE THAN RABIN, PERES CAN REALIZE THE LABOR PARTY'S POTENTIAL. ACCORDING TO SARID, PERES ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON THREE FRONTS AND OPPOSES ANNEXATION OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA. SARID PARAPHRASES PERES AS FAVORING PRESERVING THE JEWISH CHARACTER OF ISRAEL AND HOLDING THE VIEW THAT SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MUST BE PLANNED ONLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND STRICTLY IN CONFORMITY WITH SECURITY NEEDS. SARID ADMITTED THAT PERES' VIEWS ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION WERE UNSATISFACTORY BUT ADDED THAT THE PARTY'S PLATFORM WAS ALSO DEFICIENT IN THIS AREA.

4. COMMENT: IN THE WEEK THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THE PARTY'S INTERNAL ELECTIONS, SCANT INDICATIONS HAVE EMERGED AS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO IS AHEAD. OBSERVERS STILL HESITATE TO PICK A WINNER; NOT BECAUSE IT IS TOO CLOSE--ALTHOUGH THAT MAY BE THE CASE--BUT BECAUSE NO ONE IS ABLE TO GAUGE THE SENTIMENT OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF DELEGATES. WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF PERES BY EBAN, UZI BAR AM (TEL AVIV 877) AND NOW SARID, IT WOULD BE AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION TO CHARACTERIZE PERES' CHALLENGE OF RABIN IN TERMS OF HAWK VS. DOVE. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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